

Listing of Claims:

1. - 8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A rotary/pushbutton actuator, comprising:

a housing;

a pot-shaped guide element arranged in said housing;

an annular rotary encoder having an inner ring and a rotary ring arranged in said pot-shaped guide element and defining an interior space, said rotary ring being rotatable about an axis of rotation and having a dial, said inner ring being arranged on said pot-shaped guide element so that said inner ring is fixed with respect to rotation relative to said pot-shaped guide element, said pot-shaped guide element and said annular rotary encoder being movable together linearly in a direction of said axis of rotation;

an inner part arranged in said interior space and movable with the annular rotary encoder in the direction of said axis of rotation relative to said housing; and

a momentary contact switch arranged in said housing and actuatable by said pot-shaped guide element in response to movement of at least one of said dial or said inner part in the direction of said axis of rotation.

10. (Previously Presented) The actuator of claim 9, wherein said inner part further comprises a touch pad.

11. (Previously Presented) The actuator of claim 9, further comprising at least one restoring element acting on said pot-shaped guide element for urging said pot-shaped guide element to a non-actuated position.

12. (Previously Presented) The actuator of claim 10, wherein said inner part comprises a holding cylinder holding said touch pad and connected in said interior space so that said inner part is fixed with respect to rotation relative to said inner ring of said annular rotary encoder.

13. (Previously Presented) The actuator of claim 9, further comprising a printed circuit board extending essentially perpendicular to said axis of rotation, wherein said momentary contact switch is arranged on said printed circuit board, and said guide element has a base area extending parallel to said printed circuit board and acting on said momentary contact switch.

14. (Previously Presented) An operator control unit comprising a rotary/pushbutton actuator, wherein said rotary/pushbutton actuator comprises:

a housing;

a pot-shaped guide element arranged in said housing;

an annular rotary encoder having an inner ring and a rotary ring arranged in said pot-shaped guide element and defining an interior space, said rotary ring being rotatable about an axis of rotation and having a dial, said inner ring being arranged on said pot-shaped guide element so that said inner ring is fixed with respect to rotation relative to said pot-shaped guide element, said pot-shaped

guide element and said annular rotary encoder being movable together linearly in a direction of said axis of rotation;

an inner part arranged in said interior space and movable with the annular rotary encoder in the direction of said axis of rotation relative to said housing; and

a momentary contact switch arranged in said housing and actuatable by said pot-shaped guide element in response to movement of at least one of said dial or said inner part in the direction of said axis of rotation.

15. (Previously Presented) The operator control unit of claim 14, further comprising a plurality of operator control keys arranged radially around said rotary/pushbutton actuator.

16. (Previously Presented) A combination including an armrest of a vehicle seat having an extension and an operator control unit comprising a rotary/pushbutton actuator, wherein said rotary/pushbutton actuator comprises:

a housing;

a pot-shaped guide element arranged in said housing;

an annular rotary encoder having an inner ring and a rotary ring arranged in said pot-shaped guide element and defining an interior space, said rotary ring being rotatable about an axis of rotation and having a dial, said inner ring being arranged on said pot-shaped guide element so that said inner ring is fixed with respect to rotation relative to said pot-shaped guide element, said pot-shaped

guide element and said annular rotary encoder being movable together linearly in a direction of said axis of rotation;

an inner part arranged in said interior space and movable with the annular rotary encoder in the direction of said axis of rotation relative to said housing; and

a momentary contact switch arranged in said housing and actuatable by said pot-shaped guide element in response to movement of at least one of said dial or said inner part in the direction of said axis of rotation.

17. (Previously Presented) The operator control unit of claim 16, further comprising a plurality of operator control keys arranged radially around said rotary/pushbutton actuator.